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Utah man's witness now 'more than gold'

SALT LAKE CITY (BP) — "A gold medal? What could be better than that?"

Tim Mugridge said those questions he asked at the 1996 Summer Olympics brought smiles from the volunteers at the "More Than Gold" booth in Marietta, Ga. — and gave the volunteers the opening they needed to share through the More Than Gold collector pin how a relationship with Jesus Christ could indeed mean more than gold.

The volunteers had probably done that a hundred times before, but what they didn't know is how that particular seed of the Gospel was later cultivated to bear tremendous fruit.

Not only was Mugridge's life impacted, but in a textbook case of how God uses individual evangelistic encounters, he has gone on to lead more than 20 other individuals to faith in Christ.

The story of Mugridge's transformation from a disenchanted Mormon to a follower of classical Christianity came to light nearly six years later in Park City, Utah, as he discovered Southern Baptists once again sharing the "More Than Gold" story with spectators.

Mugridge said he first became aware of an entirely different view of Christ during a two-year experience as a Mormon missionary in Houston. In talking with African-American Baptists in particular, and later even visiting their churches, he began questioning his own view of God and Jesus Christ.

"That kind of opened my eyes," he said. "These people in the South who claimed to be Christians are talking about a Jesus that I don't know. It kind of dawned on me that there are two different Jesuses — the Jesus of the Bible and the Jesus of the Book of Mormon."

Mugridge eventually left the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in 1993, more out of disenchantment with its teachings than a true belief in anything else.

"I kept getting a very, very strong premonition," he said. "I just felt something deep within that something big was going to happen, and it was something I would be willing to give my life for."

It was then that he had the encounter at the "More Than Gold" table during the Atlanta Olympics. He still did not fully understand all of it, but he kept



HOPE PINNED ON CHRIST — Tim Mugridge of Park City, Utah, displays the "More Than Gold" pin given to him during the 1996 Atlanta Olympic games relaying the essence of Christian faith. Mugridge later accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior. (BP photo by Gibbs Frazeur)

the pin and the basic idea of a relationship that could mean more than gold.

His next encounter with the Gospel came a few months later during an evangelistic Christmas Eve service at

Southeast Baptist Church in Salt Lake City.

Finally, in the spring of 1997, he attended a church service in Denver on a business trip and attended a service for businessmen at a local church. The

speaker, Jimmy Head, made an appeal that "if you consider yourself a real man, you'll turn your life over to Jesus."

Mugridge did so, went back to Salt Lake City, and joined Southeast Church.

With the help of some VeggieTales videotapes that he watched with his daughter — and later intense personal Bible study and in-depth discipleship from Southside staff member Don Smith — Mugridge began to fully understand what it meant to have a relationship with Christ.

Now living in Park City and attending an Assemblies of God congregation, he often encounters people who have faced some of the same struggles he has been through — and he is able to share how Christ brought him through.

"They meet me and hear my story and they think, 'Whoa! If you can do it, I know I can do it. How did you do it?'" Mugridge said, "and that just opened up doors for me to share with them that it's not 'how;' it's 'who.' It's not me; it's he [Jesus] who is in me."

Olympics witness results in profession

SALT LAKE CITY (BP) — "You just never know what God has planned for you until it happens," said Phil Harris, one of numerous volunteers in Salt Lake City witnessing to their faith in Christ at the Winter Olympics in connection with Action Ministries International based in West Point, Ga.

Harris, a member of Second Church, Springfield, Mo., recounted on the ministry's website, www.actionministries.org, an encounter with a man named Tony on a public bus en route to the Olympic Center.

"He was simply on his way to work. God had a seat reserved for me right next to him," Harris said. "After some general conversation and introduction, I began to share the pin [a multi-colored evangelistic resource used in presenting the plan of salvation] with him."

"He quietly listened and focused on me as I spoke. Every now and then, he would glance down at the pin. After explaining the need to receive Christ, Tony simply replied, 'How do I do this?'"

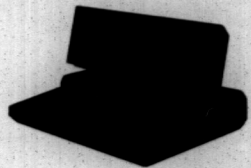
"After hearing this, I was elated for I knew that no one asks that question unless God's Spirit is working in them."

I've had a half-dozen Mormons at my door at different times and I've always taken their material but I just never felt a desire to do anything about it."

"Now I know why. I've waited all my life to hear this," Tony said.



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To sign, or not to sign

International Mission Board (IMB) President Jerry Rankin created quite a stir the last week in January when he released a letter he had written to Southern Baptist missionaries worldwide who fall under IMB purview.

In the letter, the native Mississippian and career missionary asked current IMB missionaries to sign an affirmation of the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message (BFM) as enacted that year by messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting.

Rankin's rationale, as explained in the letter, is to address "suspicion that there are IMB personnel whose beliefs and practices are inconsistent with those represented by Southern Baptists."

"While we believe this is unfounded, we do not need an issue such as this to generate needless controversy, erode support, and distract us from the focus of our task at hand at such a critical time of opportunity around the world," Rankin wrote.

Some people have taken issue with Rankin's request, citing it as stepping over the fine line into creedalism — historically antithetical to Baptists.

A creed is defined in Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary as, "a brief authoritative formula of religious belief; a set of fundamental beliefs; also a guiding principle." Creedalism, by extension, describes a system of required compulsory adherence to the contents of a creed if one wishes to be part of the organization that espouses that creed.

In other words, creedalism occurs when a person who wishes to be in a particular group is required to formally agree to the creed of that group if he/she wants to remain a member in good standing.

Creeds and creedal authority have been around as long as there has been religion, and certainly as long as people have split off

into groups with mutual interests. Creedalism is by no means limited to Christianity or religion in general, but the concept does seem to occur frequently in religious circles.

Baptists have been adamantly opposed to creedalism, virtually since the beginnings of our faith. Baptists through the years refused to agree to creeds, and some of them paid with their lives. It's safe to say that anti-creedalism is a benchmark of the Baptist faith. We don't like anything that remotely resembles a creed.

That's why the question has been raised as to whether missionaries are being asked to sign what amounts to a creedal statement in order to stay on the mission field under the auspices of IMB. It's a legitimate question.

Rankin addressed the Association of State Baptist Papers (ASBP) during the group's annual meeting last week in Albuquerque. He stressed that the missionaries are not being asked to sign the BFM; rather they are being asked to sign a separate letter of affirmation that they will conduct their work within the parameters of the BFM.

The difference is significant to Rankin, who doesn't see the BFM as being imposed on anyone due to his letter. He also told the state Baptist newspaper editors that anyone who feels they cannot give such an affirmation will counsel with their regional leaders.

What's the next step if counseling doesn't work? Rankin told this writer after the ASBP session that he doesn't foresee any such cases landing at IMB headquarters in Richmond. He just doesn't think that's going to happen, but he did add that he believes there may be some people who will use his request as an "excuse" to leave



AFFIRMATION ASKED — Mississippi native Jerry Rankin, president of the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, addresses newly-appointed missionaries November 13 during a commissioning service at First Church, Columbia, S.C. Rankin has asked missionaries currently serving in the field to affirm the 2000 version of the Baptist Faith and Message. (BP photo)

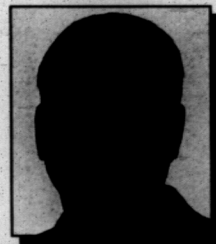
the mission field of their own volition.

For now, Rankin has been given the benefit of the doubt by Southern Baptists who would agree that IMB missionaries — or anyone else representing the convention — should not be operating radically outside what we generally hold as tenets of the faith.

There's a whole lot of difference between that and creedalism. If the line is crossed, however, and people's life-long, God-blessed mission service is called into question or destroyed because they won't sign on to the BFM and any future revisions, we'd better take another look at the process.

That's a lot closer to creedalism than most of us want to be.

FIRST-PERSON:



Surfing the Internet without wiping out

By Tim Wilkins, director
CROSS Ministry, Raleigh, N.C.

Like father, like son! Can't disconnect? Try fasting 30-90 days.

Ask a friend for accountability. Confide your struggle with a prayer partner; such relationships are precisely what web porn hinders. See www.covenanteyes.net which e-mails questionable web sites you've visited to your accountability partner.

Use a filtering system or a clean Internet provider. Some are: www.info.lifewayonline.com; www.afafilter.com; www.familyclick.com; and www.hedge.org.

One system, Watchdog, takes random shots of what's on your monitor and records text of all program usage. It searches and displays a list of all graphics, even if someone has tried to hide them. Your accountability partner can check where you've been at any

time. A director of a ministry to sex addicts allows his pastor, board, and family to check on him. Visit Watchdog at www.charlesriver.com/WD.html.

Move the computer to a high traffic area. Viewing porn diminishes when the computer sits in the family room. Avoid any room where doors can be closed.

Let teens surf only under adult supervision. Even if the computer sits in a high traffic area, limit its use to times when mom or dad is nearby.

Get what you need and get off the web. Browsing can be a mistake.

Stay off the web at night when fatigue makes you vulnerable to temptation. A tired body is a tempted body. Insomniacs beware: Counting sheep prevails over surfing the web.

Fortify your computer and work space. Be creative. Place Scripture on your screen saver pertaining to sexual temptation.

"Turn away my eyes from beholding vanity," the Bible says. Use a family photo or a picture of your wife as a reminder of your wedding vows.

Randomly or regularly check e-mail transmissions and web history. One family randomly checks their children's sent and received e-mails. A church has a different staff person check the history of all computers each month.

Keeping the history is a must. Such a measure, for example, might have saved one church staff member from falling into sin and losing his job. Visit these sites for help with web porn: www.enough.org; www.pureintimacy.org; and www.parsonage.org.

Don't ask, "How much can I get away with and not be caught?" The prudent man knows that the true mark of a Christian is measured in what he would do if he knew he would never be found out!

Wilkins is director of CROSS Ministry, Raleigh, N.C., focusing on issues related to sexual brokenness, on the Internet at www.crossministry.org.

Chinese anti-Christian measures documented

WASHINGTON (BP) — Just days before President Bush visits Beijing, religious freedom campaigners released a report Feb. 11 indicating that state repression of Christians and other religious groups in China is systematic, harsh, and authorized at senior government levels, according to CNSNews.com.

The Center for Religious Freedom at Freedom House analyzed seven top-secret or confidential Chinese government documents, which when taken together paint a picture of officials both determined to stamp out groups classified as "cults" and deeply concerned about their speedy growth in Chinese society — even within communist party circles.

"These documents provide irrefutable evidence that China remains determined to eradicate all religion it cannot control, using extreme tactics," the center's director, Nina Shea, said in a Feb. 11 news conference in New York.

"President Bush, who has repeatedly voiced concern for religious oppression in China, must speak out forcefully and publicly in support of religious freedom during his state visit to China next week," Shea said.

Beijing only tolerates a "patriotic" Protestant church and an authorized Catholic church, which appoints its own bishops without consulting Rome. These official congregations have seen massive growth since the end of the Cultural Revolution in the late 1960s.

Unauthorized churches have grown even faster, with unregistered Protestants possibly numbering more than 50 mil-

lion. The Vatican says millions of underground Catholics in China remain secretly loyal to the faith.

Many of these unregistered Christians, along with members of other groups like the Falun Gong meditation

tion sect have borne the brunt of the state clampdown on what Beijing calls "cults."

A report on Fox News noted that 129 religious adherents have been killed and nearly 24,000 arrested in the government actions, according to the Center for Religious Freedom's study.

The center said the seven documents, dated between April 1999 and October 2001, were photocopied by sympathetic security officials in China and provided by the New York-based Committee for Investigation on Persecution of Religion in China. A renowned expert authenticated the documents.

Among other things, the documents give the state's definition of a cult, identify and describe several groups so designated, and outline tactics to be used against them, including surveillance, the use of undercover spies, interroga-

tion, arrest, confiscation of property and closed trials.

As the Center for Religious Freedom pointed out, the documents also reveal ignorance among officials of the basic teachings of Christianity — ignorance which likely underpins decisions to designate a particular church group as a cult.

For instance, misinterpreting the basic Christian belief that Christ lives in the believer, officials accuse members of groups that believe this of "deifying" their leaders.

"This officially atheist state and its officially atheist security officials are setting themselves up as the arbiters of true religious doctrine and, on this basis, imprisoning and torturing religious believers," the center noted.

The documents also reveal paranoia about what officials see as outside attempts to attack China through unauthorized religious groups.

Thus, the Vatican is accused of inciting members of the authorized Catholic Church to rebel, while "antagonistic powers" like the United States and Taiwan are seen as colluding with Falun Gong adherents.

The U.N. Human Rights Commission meeting in Geneva each March has over the past decade become the stage for an annual power struggle between the United States and China. Washington sponsors a resolution critical of Beijing's human rights record, and China invariably works up sufficient support from other nations to prevent a vote on the measure.

Ahead of this year's gathering, China at the weekend launched a diplomatic initiative aimed at countering criticism of its rights record.

The Center for Religious Freedom noted Feb. 11 that Beijing also has been pushing a public relations campaign to persuade the West "that there is

no religious persecution in China, that whatever incidents of repression occur are either the unauthorized acts of 'overzealous cadres' or else necessary measures against dangerous criminals, cultists and practitioners of 'abnormal' religious activities."

However, the documents reflect the views of senior officials at national, regional or local levels. One document, a speech by a provincial-level security official, quotes senior party officials, including Hu Jin-tao, designated as successor to President Jiang Zemin, as stating the importance of crushing one group designated as a "cult."

One of the documents reveals official concern that the clampdown is not proving successful. A provincial security official in a

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Bible smuggler freed

WASHINGTON (BP) — Chinese authorities have freed a man jailed for smuggling Bibles into mainland China in the latest of several positive gestures taken by Beijing prior to President Bush's visit this month, CNSNews.com reported. Although Hong Kong businessman Li Guangqiang was released Feb. 9 on medical grounds, two mainland Chinese citizens arrested along with him remain in prison. Li told a news conference on his return to Hong Kong that he hoped Lin Xifu and Yu Zhudi also would be freed. The two were sentenced to three years each for their roles in helping Li smuggle more than 30,000 Bibles into mainland China last April and May. In the same trial in January, Li was jailed for two years but the official Xinhua news agency reported Feb. 9 that a municipal court had ruled that he could serve his time at home because of poor health. Li has Hepatitis-B. The three had originally faced charges that carried the death penalty — "using a cult to undermine enforcement of the law." Amid international pressure and expressions of concern from the White House, prosecutors amended the charges to far less serious ones. Li, Lin and Yu are all members of a large underground church known as the Local Church, or disparagingly by the authorities as the Shouters. Beijing listed the group as a "cult" in 1983. Li, in a Feb. 10 news conference, defended his church group, saying it held beliefs shared by other Christian denominations and was not an evil cult, as branded by Beijing. China allows Christian practice only through a "patriotic" Protestant organization and a Catholic church whose bishops pledge loyalty to the state, not to the Vatican. Analysts earlier predicted that the Chinese would find a way to release Li before Bush visits the nation on February 21-22.

Looking back

10 years ago

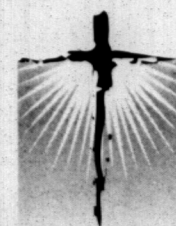
Jimmy McCaleb is the new contract consultant for the Church Music Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. He will serve as small church and associational consultant, replacing Danny Jones who has joined the staff of the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville.

20 years ago

The Mississippi Baptist Student Union Department, through its missions committee, appoints 66 college and university students to student summer missions positions in Mississippi, the United States, and around the world.

50 years ago

Strong support for federal legislation to ban liquor advertising from radio and television airwaves is expressed in Washington D.C., by religious groups attending a two-day hearing conducted by the Senate Interstate Commerce Committee.



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

THE
SECOND
FRONT PAGE

Youth pledge purity during 'Seize the Net'

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — More than 77,000 teens around the nation made online commitments to remain sexually abstinent until marriage as part of True Love Waits: Seize the Net Goes Live, a nationally televised celebration of purity.

More than 1,000 youth also gathered at Wedgwood Church in Fort Worth, Texas, Feb. 13 and thousands more joined the event via satellite and a live broadcast on FamilyNet. Many responded to the invitation to sign commitments to purity by visiting the www.truelovewaits.com website.

The rally, hosted by brother-sister singing duo Phillip and Natalie LaRue, also featured music from Phat Chance and Joy Williams, all artists who have taken a stand for sexual purity.

Richard Ross, one of the founders of True Love Waits and a professor of youth ministry at Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, delivered a challenge to young people participating in the rally. He compared each youth to a rosebud, demonstrating that when a rosebud is forced to open before the proper time, it is torn.

"If you already have had sex before marriage, which are you?" he asked. "Are you my hands doing the tearing or are you the petals that have been torn? Actually, you're both ... in sex before marriage you are being torn but you're also tearing another."

Even so, there is forgiveness for those who already have made mistakes, Ross said. "God himself welcomes you with open arms. It was Jesus Christ, God himself, hanging on the cross, that made it pos-

sible for your sins to be forgiven, including your sexual sins.

"If you've experienced God's forgiveness, you can make a promise of purity from this night until your wedding night," he said. "The rosebud represents the person you are this evening. By God's grace, this can blossom into something absolutely beautiful on your wedding day."

Two recently married couples interviewed by Ross testified to the truth of his message. "It was

amazing," Joe, a new husband, said of his wedding day. "I could relate to Adam in some way when God presented Eve to him for the first time. I knew at that moment what God intended marriage to be."

Ross also read a letter to the participants from U.S. President George W. Bush, which read in part: "Your decision



REGISTERING ONLINE — Glen McEwen (right) of FamilyNet shows Katie MacLeod how to register her commitment on the truelovewaits.com web site during Seize the Net Goes Live event. (Photo by Jim Morris)

St. Louis SBC Day Camp announced

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP) — Children attending the 2002 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting with their parents in St. Louis this June will have an opportunity to experience missions through SBC DayCamp 2002.

With a theme of "Gateway for Missions," the camp will be offered for boys and girls who will have completed grades one through six by June. The camp will include fun and games, interaction with missionaries, and a hands-on mission project.

Registration is open to participants at a cost of \$75 per child for those before May 1, and \$85 per child from May 1 through May 27.

The schedule is Tuesday, June 11, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (lunch included) and Wednesday, June 12, from 8 a.m. to noon. Parents also will be required to sign a medical release for their children.

Day campers should dress comfortably and are required to wear a day camp wristband, day camp T-shirt (provided through registration), soft-sole recreation shoes and socks.

Volunteers also are being enlisted to help staff the camp.

For further information and registration, contact Dean Green, SBC DayCamp 2002 Reservations, 192 Lovejoy Road, Sparta, Tenn. 38583. Green also may be contacted by e-mail at mktracks@blo-mand.net, or toll-free via telephone at (866) 813-3396.

LIMITED VISION

How far can you see? When God created the human eye, he did an incredible work! Without us even thinking about it, we are able to focus on something so small and minute as a thread being put through the eye of a needle. Then, with just a turn of the head, we can look out and see a ball of fire hanging in the sky 93 million miles away. It wouldn't even be necessary for us to blink to change from one image to the other.

How far can you see? Sometimes, our vision is impaired by disease or some dysfunction that strikes the eye. At other times, we are unable to see very far because of an obstruction that stands between us and the objects beyond. In the spiritual realm, we are often prevented from seeing very far because of our own sinfulness, selfishness, small faith, and short stature. Sin is always a major blockade that keeps the rays of God's sunlight from flowing into the darkness of our world so that we can see what he wants us to do and what he would have us to be. Selfishness always warps the lenses of spiritual eyesight, so that while we might see what we want to see and how we want to see it, we are unable to see what others may need and how they view it.

Then, no doubt, there are those times when each of us struggles with our small and struggling faith, wondering if God can and will come. We wonder how God can change the situation. We cannot see how things can turn around. Then there is the problem that so many



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

of us have in the walk with our Lord — we are just too short! Like Zacchaeus, we cannot see over the crowd. We are unable to see him coming to us and we cannot see what he is doing.

Not long ago I had been to a meeting out of state. On the day that I flew back home, the sky was beautiful, cloudless, and crystal clear. You could see for what seemed to be forever. The plane was cruising at about 30,000 feet and I was looking at the sectioned land passing below. Something caught my eye that intrigued me for the next few minutes — a huge, long train on the tracks below. I was fascinated by several things that I observed as I looked down on the scene. One was the people on the road adjacent to the tracks. They were just going back and forth with no apparent awareness of the train. On the other hand, there were other folks in cars that were stopped in both directions waiting for the train to pass so they could get on with life.

The thing I thought about was that these folks, whose lives were being interrupted by this train, did not know how long they were going to be there. I could see the front and back of the train from my high post in the sky and I could see

what was ahead for them. From my observation point, the train looked like it was 125-150 cars long, and it was moving along at a slow pace. The folks who were blocked by this train couldn't see either the beginning or the end — they were just caught there.

I have been there in life, where I could not see the beginning nor the end of some things. I was just caught there in the middle of issues. For some of those folks I wanted to tell them, "Just sit tight, it's almost over, and you'll be able to be on your way." For others I wanted to tell them, "You have a ways to go, but everything is going to be okay." Watching the scenario unfold, the words of Scripture came to my mind as God said to his people through Isaiah, "As the Heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts, than your thoughts." (Isa. 55:9)

I wonder how many times God looks down on you and me and sees us struggling with our diseases, debts, deaths, or just daily, human dilemmas. Yet, he knows how it all began and where it all will end and he simply asks us to trust him through it all. He wants us to trust him, not complain or

accuse — just trust him and he will see us through.

A great old hymn writer expressed it this way, "Be not dismayed, what e're be-tied, God will take care of you. Beneath his wings of love abide, God will take care of you." He absolutely will!

As I watched this drama beneath me, I also thought about the folks on the train as they traveled down those steel bands. I wondered if they knew that there were turns just ahead and I wondered if they were alert to obstacles that might get in their way. Sure, they are trained to watch for those kinds of conditions and would know, without a doubt, that things would come up — hills to climb, unexpected objects on the tracks, turns on the tracks that may call for slowing down, and downhill runs that may call for the breaks.

While I flew at over 500 mph, and could see it all, I wished that I could communicate to those folks below that, in time, everything would be all right and life would return to normalcy. Then, as it all passed by and I could see it no longer, I thought about me — how far above me God was — caring, watching, and wondering if I would trust him. Sitting on that plane, I renewed my commitment to and love for him. He takes care of me daily. I cannot always see very far, but I know that he sees everything — the beginning and the end. He sees the little sparrow and he watches over his small servant sitting on a plane seeking to do his will.

He also sees and cares for you today!

Seminary panel debates war on terrorism

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — A diverse group of theologians, pastors, and professors gathered at Southern Seminary in Louisville Feb. 6 to tackle one question: Should the United States be involved in military action overseas against terrorism?

The 80-minute panel discussion debate found former Southern ethics professor Henlee Barnette siding with seminary President R. Albert Mohler Jr. and two other panelists in support of the U.S. military operation.

Joe Phelps, pastor of Highland Church in Louisville, stood alone in opposition to military action.

The event, titled "Onward Christian Soldiers? Christian Witness in a Time of Terror," was sponsored by the seminary's Carl F.H. Henry Institute for Evangelical Engagement, drawing an estimated audience of 550, most of whom were Southern students.

The two other panelists were Mark Coppenger, pastor of Evanston (Ill.) Church and formerly president of Midwestern Seminary until trustees forced his resignation, and Kenneth Magnuson, assistant professor of Christian ethics at Southern Seminary.

Russell Moore, instructor of theology at Southern Seminary, served as moderator.

Barnette began by noting that while he opposed the Vietnam War — and even had sons on opposite sides of the issue — he supports the war on terrorism.

"There was a great deal of protest to us being in Vietnam," he said. "I was opposed to the war. I wrote articles against it. I lectured against it."

"We were not fighting a defensive war in Vietnam," he said. "Now we are. It is an entirely new kind of war."

Phelps, though, said the United States did not exhaust its non-military options before it began military action. However, he drew a line between a nation fighting a war and an individual taking physical action, saying that there are some instances where force is needed. Phelps said he affirms the actions of the passengers on the plane that crashed in Pennsylvania.

"I would like to think that our country is doing what it's doing with the very best of intentions — just as those people on the plane were," he said, "but the people on the plane had no other alternative — at least that I can think of. ... We, on the other hand, do have alternatives to bombing and doing the things that we have done, which in my opinion have increased the danger that our country faces."

"Perhaps we've done what we've done with the best of intentions. I don't think it has yielded the results that we hoped it would."

Referring to Romans 13, Mohler said the United States has been justified in its military response.

"In both the Old and New Testaments, the demands of justice require that those who do evil be punished for those acts of evil," he said. "War is one of the means by which peace is re-established."

Barnette agreed, saying that the Greek word for "love" — *agape* — demands justice. "You can't have *agape* [love]



PANEL PONDERERS WAR — Former Southern Seminary professor Henlee Barnette, (right) speaks during a panel discussion on the ethics of war Feb. 6. Joining Barnette at the forum were (left to right) Joe Phelps, pastor of Highland Church in Louisville, Ky.; R. Albert Mohler Jr., president of Southern Seminary; Kenneth Magnuson, assistant professor of Christian ethics at Southern; Russell Moore (moderator), instructor of theology at Southern; and Mark Coppenger, pastor of Evanston (Ill.) Church. The event was held at Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky. (BP photo by David Merrifield)

without justice," he said. "Otherwise it is purely sentimentality. I go along with Augustine on this. You may hit me on the right cheek, [and] I'll turn the left, but you hit one of my family [members], and you're going to get justice."

The panel discussed a wide range of issues, including:

- Augustine's "Just War Theory." Magnuson summarized the theory, saying that it involves such goals as limiting

civilian casualties and restoring justice.

- The killing of innocent people. All of the panelists said that everything must be done to avoid civilian casualties in wartime actions.

- The use of the word "evil" in reference to terrorists. Mohler said use of the term is "inescapable." He compared the evil that exists today to the evil that existed in Nazi Germany.

- The struggle for peace. Phelps argued that World Wars I and II did not result "in a stable peace in our world," and that America needs to ask, "[W]hat can we do as a nation to initiate peace around the world?"

"You give it your best in your generation to secure peace and to defend the innocent and to right wrongs, but human nature will catch up with you, and you'll have to do it all over again until the Lord comes."

- The importance of prayer. "Pray for our leaders — that they will act

justly," Magnuson said. "We should not underestimate the power of prayer. Everyone now should be praying for our government officials — that they will make the right decisions."

Phelps agreed, adding that Christians also should pray "for our enemies. We have to ask the question, 'Have we prayed for Osama bin Laden?' As absurd as that sounds, have we prayed for our enemies?"

IBS defends NIV gender revision

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (BP) — Responding to criticism from evangelical leaders across the country, a statement issued by the International Bible Society (IBS) declares, "There is an academic, linguistic rationale for the translation of every passage" in its new gender-neutral Today's New International Version (TNIV), "and political correctness is most certainly not one of them."

The IBS, in issuing the TNIV, noted that it "consulted with numerous conservative, evangelical scholars prior to the release of the text. These scholars have unequivocally confirmed the accuracy and integrity of the TNIV."

The IBS statement, dated Feb. 7, did not specify the scholars involved in its consultations nor examples of the rationales for any of its renderings. Steve Johnson, IBS vice president for development and communication who circulated the statement, could not be reached by press deadline for additional information. In announcing the TNIV Jan. 28, however, the IBS listed a number of endorsers on its www.tniv.info website, including author Philip Yancey; Craig Blomberg of Denver Seminary; Gilbert Bilezikian and Gary Burge of Wheaton College; Mark Strauss of Bethel Seminary San Diego; and John R. Kohlenberger III, editor of The Exhaustive Concordance to the Greek New Testament.

The IBS assertion of "an academic, linguistic rationale for the translation of every passage" is an apparent response to the Council on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood, which has posted on its www.cbmw.org website a 12-point "Concise listing of TNIV inaccuracies" and a longer list of 100-plus challenges to TNIV renderings of various Bible passages.

The IBS statement noted, "There is room for differences of opinion on the translation complexities of Greek, Hebrew, and Aramaic [the original languages of the Bible]. However, differences of opinion on linguistic issues should not be confused with feminist or social agenda. The [Committee on Bible Translation (CBT), a 15-scholar group responsible for the NIV text] has not mistranslated or diluted the Holy Scriptures and such allegations are ill-founded and have no basis in fact. Critics have sadly confused matters of accuracy in translation with dangerous social agendas. The two have no connection. Accusations that the godly members of the CBT have been influenced by feminism or political correctness are false, damaging, and simply absurd."

"IBS is hopeful that allegations of social agenda could be replaced with reasoned dialogue on the matter of translation," the statement noted.

The TNIV's New Testament will be published this spring, according to an IBS/Zondervan news release, and the complete Bible is "expected in 2005." They said the NIV also will continue to be published.

St. Louis SBC child care now registering

ST. LOUIS (BP) — In addition to on-site child care during the June 11-12 Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) annual meeting in St. Louis, the service is being extended on a one-year trial basis for the Sunday-Monday sessions of the Pastors' Conference and the Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) annual meeting.

Registration has begun on a first-come, first-served basis.

Child care for infants through children who have finished kindergarten will be available during the Tuesday and Wednesday sessions of the SBC annual meeting and, on a trial basis this year, during the Sunday-Monday, June 9-10, sessions of the Pastors' Conference and WMU.

A \$10 one-time nonrefundable registration fee is charged for each child. For each session, a \$5 per child fee is charged, with a maximum charge of \$40 per family for the full four days of child care.

Registration information may be obtained by e-mailing sndyosbrn@aol.com, including the sender's name and address; by phone, at (636) 227-7850; by downloading a set of forms for each child at the Internet site of Ballwin Baptist Church, www.ballwinbaptist.com; or by writing to SBC Childcare, Sandy Osborne, Ballwin Baptist Church, 15101 Manchester Road, Ballwin, MO 63011.

Registration materials will include child care policies and specific hours of operation.

Free condoms At Olympics criticized

WASHINGTON (BP) — Pro-family groups are decrying a decision by the Salt Lake Organizing Committee (SLOC) to provide free condoms to Olympic athletes attending the winter games, as doctors in and out of Congress point out their deficiencies in preventing sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), CNSNews.com reported. The official Olympic medical supplier, Cardinal Health, donated 12,000 condoms to be made available to athletes through first aid stations.

Generation Life, a group of pro-life college students, artists, and musicians from Boise, Idaho, held a news conference to protest the SLOC's decision to distribute the condoms. "Recreational sex is not an Olympic sport," Generation Life founder Brandi Swindell told CNSNews.com. "The decision that the Salt Lake Organizing Committee made is appalling."

Wendy Wright, communications director for Concerned Women for America (CWA), also voiced concern about the message SLOC is sending to the athletes. "This is really irresponsible because it's encouraging the athletes to be promiscuous," Wright said. "What they're saying, in essence, is, 'We expect you to be sexually active while you're here.' That encourages behavior that can end up being illegal, like sexual harassment."

Caroline Shaw, a spokeswoman for the SLOC, disagreed. "We consider it a good public health practice," she told reporters.



Smith, Pray, McCaleb, and Darsey

Lifetime honorary memberships to the Mississippi Baptist Church Music Conference were awarded at its annual meeting at First Church, McComb, Feb. 7-8. Memberships were awarded to Dot Pray, retired keyboard consultant, and Jimmy McCaleb, association and bivocational consultant, Church Music Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB). Pictured (from left) are Graham Smith, director, Church Music Department, MBCB; Pray; McCaleb; and T.R. Darsey, president, Mississippi Baptist Church Music Conference.

Port Gibson Church, Port Gibson, recently ordained Larry Barrett and Wilbur (Sonny) Harpole as deacons. Pictured (from left, first row) are Debbie and Larry Barrett; Wilbur and Martha Harpole; Burnice Trevilion, chairman of deacons; Malcolm Montgomery; Charles Dobbs; (second row) Dykes Cupstid; William May; Charles D. Terrell, pastor; Monette Greer; John Selden; Jim Brady, pastor of Shiloh Church, Port Gibson; (third row) Sim Dulaney; Tom Cranfield; Ronnie Hynum; W. W. Harpole; and Michael Ellis.

Old Union Church, Shannon, will celebrate Youth Day on March 3. The youth will help with the morning services. Evening services will be lead by the Baptist Student Union of Northeast Community College in Booneville. David Smith is youth director. Kenneth Kelly is pastor.

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JUST FOR THE RECORD

Women on Mission of Gracewood Church, Southaven, will have their monthly meeting on March 2 at 11 a.m. Judy Scruggs will share information about the Baptist Children's Village in Independence.

Bible Preaching Conference will be held at Southside Church, Vicksburg, Feb. 24-27. Services are Sunday, 9:50 a.m. and 5 p.m. and Mon.-Wed., 6 p.m. Speakers include Randall Creel, Melvin Mordecai, Tony Monk, Desi Ginn, Johnny Tucker, Ed Knox, and Richard Clark. Greg Clemts is pastor.

Weekend Oasis for Women will be held at First Church, Ocean Springs, March 1 and 2. The times are 6-9 p.m. on Friday and 9 a.m.-noon on Saturday. Speakers are Ginger Stewart, a member of Agricola Church in George County; and Anita Randol of Monroe, La. To register, call the church office at (601) 875-4532.

Gerald D. Shook, pastor of Anchor Church, Water Valley, for 18 years, was honored on Pastor Appreciation Day, Oct. 28. "When he came to this church field in 1984 the membership was 405, today it is 696, at that time the church budget was \$77,658 today it is \$335,162," said Maudene McCain, church clerk. Shook went on the New York mission trip this year with other pastors from Lafayette County. He also went to Montana and Brazil on the mission field. Don Stanfill, missions director for Lafayette Association, brought the message. The church also had a fellowship meal honoring the pastor and his family. Shook previously served at Paynes Church, Tallahatchie County.



Shook



Mission Friends of Indian Springs Church, Jones Association, gave \$38.30 to Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. Children pictured (from left) are Ben Howard, Garrett Goodwin, Kelli Sue Sullivan, Natalie Welch, Allison Townsend, and Alyssa Garick. The teachers are Debbie Welch, Lisa Little, Rhonda Sullivan, C. J. Townsend Joan Smith, Vickie Barnett, Anita Daughtrey, and Kathy Daughtrey. Mike West is pastor.



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39110

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS

Matthew 10:27 NAS

February 21, 2002

HouseTops is a **Baptist Record** supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's **Communication Services**.

GULFSHORE SEEKING SUMMER EMPLOYEES

Gulfshore Baptist Assembly is accepting applications for employment for the 2002 summer staff, according to Frank Simmons, assembly manager.

College age applicants who are interested are encouraged to consider this avenue of ministry and service. The assembly begins its summer program May 11, 2002, and continues until August 15, 2002. The Gulfshore schedule features Senior Adult, Single, Youth, Music, Family and Adult leadership conferences. It is hoped that 2002 attendance will be the largest ever for Gulfshore.

Available positions include food services, Red Cross-trained lifeguards, housekeeping, registration and office, first aid, and grounds and maintenance.

The assembly provides an interesting program of activities for the staff; and they have the opportunity for service as well as personal spiritual growth and development. It provides a wonderful opportunity to meet people from various places in Mississippi and to develop meaningful and personal friendships with these people.

Interested college age students are encouraged to meet with Simmons Feb. 25 through March 21 on various college campuses across Mississippi, where he will be interviewing prospective employees.

The recruiting schedule is as follows:

Monday	(Feb. 25) Miss. Delta Community College BSU	11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
	Delta State BSU Center	2:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday	(Feb. 26) Northwest Miss. Comm. College Student Union	11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
	Blue Mountain College BSU Center	2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Wednesday	(Feb. 27) Miss. State University BSU Center	11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Thursday	(Feb. 28) Northeast Miss. Community College BSU	10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
	Ole Miss BSU Center	3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Monday	(Mar. 4) East Central Comm. College BSU	10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
	Miss. College—Rogers Student Center	2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday	(Mar. 5) Hinds Community College BSU Center	10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
	Co-Lin Community College BSU Center	1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
	Southwest Miss. Comm. College BSU Center	4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Wednesday	(Mar. 6) Jones County Junior College BSU Center	10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
	Meridian Comm College	2:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Thursday	(Mar. 7) William Carey College — Crawford Hall BSU	10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
	University or Southern Miss. BSU Center	1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Thursday	(Mar. 21) Pearl River Comm. College BSU	10:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

For additional information about an interview, Contact Frank Simmons at Gulfshore, 228-452-7261 or e-mail fsimmons@mbcb.org or contact the BSU director on the college campus in your respective area or the state.

For a staff application and other information write to Summer Employment, Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, 100 First St., Pass Christian, MS 39571-3299 or visit the Web site www.mbcb.org

Marriage Conferences



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- **Music**
- **Drama**
- **Inspiration**
- **Communication challenges**
- **Conflict resolution and much more**

Time: Friday, 6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
Saturday, 8 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.

Cost: \$50

Place: Main Street Baptist Church

Hattiesburg

March 1 & 2, 2002

For registration, call David Rogers
601-296-8000

Broadmoor Baptist Church

Madison

May 3 & 4, 2002

For registration, call Tommy Jarrett
601-898-2345

For more info contact:
Glenn Shows, Discipleship and Family Ministry
1-601-292-3373 or (800)748-1651

STATE SENIOR ADULT LEADERSHIP LAB

"Reaching and Ministering to Younger Seniors"

FBC Vicksburg 601-636-2493

Tuesday, April 30, 2002

9 a.m.-4 p.m.

\$5 payable at registration

Cliff Harris

Cliff Harris, Christian Action Commission, Dallas, Tex.

Music: Becky Brown, Utica, Miss.

9:00 a.m.	Registration
9:30 a.m.	Session I.....Glenn Shows, MBCB Music.....Becky Brown "Combining Younger Seniors In Ministry"Cliff Harris
10:30 a.m.	Break.....Refreshments provided by Mississippi Baptist Foundation
11:00 a.m.	Session II Music.....Becky Brown Mission Ideas.....Toni Wimberely, NOBTS, New Orleans "How to Minister to Younger Seniors.....Cliff Harris
12:00 p.m.	LunchLunch is on your own
1:30 p.m.	Session III Disco Duck.....Charles Martindale Minister with Senior Adults, FBC, West Monroe, La. Resources for Younger SeniorsGlenn Shows, MBCB
2:30 p.m.	Session IV Music.....Becky Brown "Christian Ethics on Wealth".....Cliff Harris, Dallas
3:30 p.m.	- Adjourn

• DISPLAYS • BOOKSTORE • HANDOUTS

For more info contact:

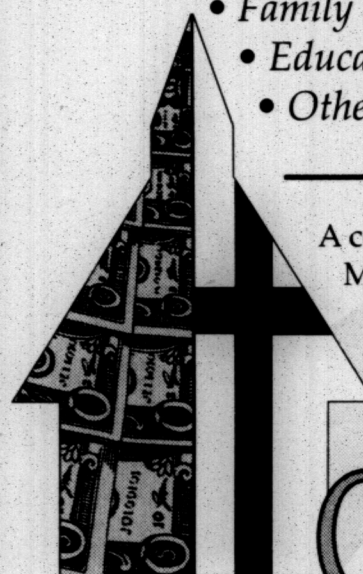
Glenn Shows, Discipleship and Family Ministry, 1-601-292-3373 or (800)748-1651

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- Family Life Center
- Educational Buildings
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Director, 601-292-3347 or
1-800-748-1651 ext. 347

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to Build**



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April 5-6, 2002

Country Woods Baptist Church, Jackson

Cost \$25 (includes T-shirt, snacks, lunch
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- Acting (beginners and advanced)
- Directing (beginners and advanced)
- Illusions
- Choreography
- Technical Support

Clowning

- Clowning (beginners and advanced)
- Leading a Clown Troop
- Balloon Sculpting
- Clowning Skills

Puppets

- Puppetry (beginners and advanced)
- Leading a Puppet Team (beginners and advanced)

Church Recreation

- Fun and Games
- New Ideas
- Creative and Fun Classes in the Areas of Socials, Senior Adults, Children and General Recreation

Youth Ministry

- Training Youth to be Leaders
- Training for Youth Mission Trips
- Spring Training...Tips for Building Better Players and Stronger Teams
led by Gary Permenter

**For more information, please contact the
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board
Discipleship and Family Ministry
Department**

601-968-3800 or 1-800-748-1651

Family Life Conferences 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.

(AREA 8) - FBC, RICHTON

Monday, Feb. 4 (Call 601-939-1715)

- ♦ Marriage Enrichment - Glenn Shows, MBCB
- ♦ Parenting - Don Hicks, MBCB
- ♦ Single Adults - Steve Bublitz, Hattiesburg
- ♦ Youth Leadership - Harvey Ellis, MBCB

(AREA 6) - FOREST BAPTIST CHURCH

Tuesday, Feb. 19 (Call 601-469-2206)

- ♦ Marriage Enrichment - Glenn Shows, MBCB
- ♦ Senior Adults - "Scams Aimed at Senior Adults," Horace Kerr, Brandon
- ♦ Parenting - Dot Day, Hazlehurst
- ♦ Financial Helps - NF Greer, Meadville

(AREA 6) - FBC, RALEIGH

Monday, March 4 (Call 601-982-4580)

- ♦ Single Parenting - Perry Sanderford, Brandon
- ♦ Marriage Enrichment - Glenn Shows, MBCB
- ♦ Children's Leadership - Don Hicks, MBCB
- ♦ Youth Leadership - Harvey Ellis, MBCB

(AREA 7) - SILOAM BC, MEADVILLE

Thursday, March 7 (Call 601-384-2759)

- ♦ The Blended Family - Dot Day, Hazlehurst
- ♦ Single Parents - Jan Halford, Jackson
- ♦ Family Enrichment - Glenn Shows, MBCB

For more info contact:

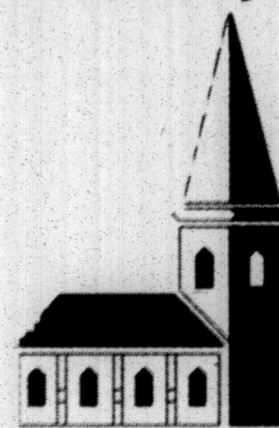
Glenn Shows, Discipleship and Family Ministry
1-601-292-3373 or (800)748-1651

The conference is for:

- pastors
- staff members
- building committees
- long-range planning committees
- business administrators and
- maintenance / property personnel

For more information, contact:
Keith Gordon or Kay McDonnell
Church Building Services
PO Box 530
Jackson MS 39205-0530
Phone: 1-800-748-1651 or
601-292-3305 in Jackson
Fax number: 601-714-7426
E-mail: kmcdonnell@mbcb.org

Church Facilities & Furnishings Workshop



**March 19, 2002
8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

**Country Woods Baptist Church
6737 Siwell Road
Jackson**

PARTNERS IN MINISTRY

Brochures will be mailed soon!

**April 8-9, 2002
Camp Garaywa, Clinton**

Mississippi Baptist Secretaries Conference

Sponsored by Church Administration - Pastoral Ministries Department



*Stacey Spencer
Worship Leader*



*Jake Gullledge
Music Worship Leader*

Super Summer 2002 July 15-19 Mississippi College

For more info contact:

Harvey Ellis, Discipleship and Family Ministry
1-601-292-3286 or (800)748-1651

"Spring Fling" For Special Ministry Adults

**Saturday, May 11, 2002
Camp Garaywa, Clinton
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

Cost is only \$12 per person. A PREREGISTRATION FEE OF \$5 IS NECESSARY BY MAY 1. The balance will be due at registration. One adult counselor for every five participants of the same sex is required. For additional information, contact the Sunday School Department, 1-800-748-1651.

Church Name _____ Phone _____
Church Address _____ City _____
Person completing form _____ Phone _____
Total # attending _____ Total preregistration fee enclosed \$ _____

Please mail to: Sunday School Dept. PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205

- Crafts
- Recreation
- Bible Study
- Music

Pray this day for...

February 22-March 7, 2002

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 601-292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-7729 (PRAY)

"A sinning man will stop praying and a praying man will stop sinning."

Leonard Ravenhill

The Thailand Baptist Theological Seminary now has 122 students, a new record for the highest enrollment since the seminary was founded over 50 years ago. Pray that many throughout Thailand would continue to be drawn to its training. Pray for the faculty as they teach there.

For: (1) Season of Prayer for North American Missions, 3rd - 10th (WMU/MM Emphasis); (2) There has been some disagreement between Turkana pastors of Kenya and Sudan. Pray that God would provide a way for them to be unified.

Student protests in Malawi led to violence, death and the temporary closing of a college, stopping the work of campus missionaries Billy and Susan Sanson. Political violence in Zimbabwe has been increasing as the March presidential elections approach. Pray for stability for the governments of these countries.

Taipei's, Long Shan Temple is one of 8,700 temples in Taiwan where the darkness of Chinese folk religion and Buddhism continue to blind people. Pray for the true light of Jesus to shine. The Falungong cult has 30,000 members in Taiwan. Pray for Christians to be salt and light in the darkness of this cult.

For: (1) Sunday School Growth Workshop, Clinton (SS); (2) In January 2000, David and Laurie Williams became the first IMB missionaries in years to serve in their interior Sao Paulo city of Brazil. They request prayer for an effective ministry to area pastors and couples in the gated community nearby.

Pray for the many volunteers who will go to Ghana in the next few months to partner with Ghana Baptists in evangelistic, church-planting and leadership-training projects. Especially remember Felix and Dene Greer, missionaries there.

Your continuing prayers are needed for the eight Baptist representatives in a Last Frontier nation whose visas were denied. As appeals are made, pray that God will move in the hearts of the government leaders to grant these work permits.

For: (1) Baptist Building Staff AT HOME DAYS; (2) Tom Anderson is a church planter among Native Americans in McAlester, Okla. His wife is Rhoda. Pray for them as they share the love of God with the many Indian tribes in the area.

For: (1) Associational Missions Directors Dialogue, Garaywa, Clinton (MSNXT); (2) Please be in prayer for a volunteer team that is preparing to go to the Democratic Republic of the Congo in June; (3) Pray for Premier Chang Chun-hsiung of Taiwan (east Asia).

Baptist representatives Brent and Kathy Reeves in Thailand have an answer to prayer. One of their Thai language teachers prayed to receive Christ on Feb. 7. They asked us to pray that N. will grow in her faith and bring many of her friends and co-workers to the Lord.

Give thanks that a national pastor in India has embraced a vision to lead his people in church planting work in the the January 2001 earthquake area. He is quite open to working with other Great Commission Christians who might be led to this area of India. Pray that God will bless his ministry.

For: (1) State Youth Keyboard Festival, Jackson (CM); (2) North American missionaries in Peru face tremendous obstacles when trying to reach Muslims with the good news of Christ. Pray that Peruvians will boldly go and proclaim the gospel among the unreached Muslims there.

For: (1) Youth Choir Festival, Pearl; (CM); (2) Mississippi Acteens Convention, 1st-3rd (WMU); (3) James and Martha Chun, ISC workers in Ulsan, South Korea, have begun teaching Bible in their home to non-Christians who want to study English. Pray that the result may be the winning of many to Christ.

For: (1) Christian Education Clinic, FBC, Jackson (D&FM); (2) Please pray for Prime Minister Goran Persson of Sweden (northwestern Europe); (3) Also pray for President Moritz Leuenberger of Switzerland (central Europe).

GA MOTHER/DAUGHTER OVERNIGHT



**MARCH 22-23, 2002
CAMP GARAYWA
COST: \$33 PER PERSON**

(includes meals, lodging, insurance, T-shirt, and program fees)

Begins at 5 p.m. on Friday and ends at 2 p.m. on Saturday
The registration deadline is March 8. If space is still available after the deadline date, reservations will be accepted at the cost of \$38 per person.
Contact the WMU for registration form or info: 1-601-292-3316,
1-800-748-1651, ext. 316 or e-mail: nmason@mbcb.org

Mississippi Delta
MissionsFEST 2002

April 7-13

**MissionsFEST
2002**

Ways to participate:

- Register with national WMU for April 7-13 MissionsFest 2002.
- Your group can assemble "Hospitality Bags" and deliver them to Camp Garaywa or Central Hills Retreat Center by March 29.
- If your group needs a one-day project or would like to donate needed supplies, please contact Tammy Anderson in the state WMU office at 1-800-748-1651, ext. 323, or in Jackson, (601) 292-3323 or e-mail: tanderson@mbcb.org.

3-89 MISS ALICIA L. RACEY

Parents: Michael & Annette

4-83 MISS JENNIFER L. JOHNSTON

Parents: Vincent & Sharon

9-91 MR. JOHN M. CURTIS

Parents: Clifton & Cathy

15-81 MR. JOEL K. GLAZE

Parents: David & Gloria

15-81 MR. SETH R. GLAZE

Parents: David & Gloria

19-80 MISS BETHANY A. PEVEY

Parents: Frank D. Jr. & Jerry Anne

21-82 MR. JOEL B. COLLINS

Parents: Charles F. & E. Suzanne

23-98 MISS LILLY A. FOSTER

Parents: Michael & Miranda

24-90 MISS KIMBLERY E. CARLTON

Parents: David & Pamela

24-83 MR. JUSTIN A. MARTIN

Parents: Asbury & Hope

28-87 MISS REBEKAH L. RAY

Parents: Michael & Linda

29-93 MR. CHRISTOPHER D. CARLTON

Parents: David & Pamela

Please note March birthday name correction:

13-95 MISS MOLLIE S. FOSTER

Parents: Michael & Miranda



**Take a moment
to send a card
to encourage
the children of
our missionaries!**

Please take a moment to drop a birthday greeting and word of encouragement to our Missionary Kids! For security, cards will be forwarded. Please send all to:

**Child's name and parent's name
International Mission Board
P.O. Box 6767
Richmond, VA 23230-8767**

HOUSE TOPS

NAMES IN THE NEWS

Pastor and deacons of Fayette Church, Fayette, pictured (from left) are Eddie King, pastor for 15 years; R.G. Griffith, church treasurer for 15 years; Herbert Miller, music leader for 30 years; Calvin Young; Howard Bonds; and Frank Spillman, deacons.

Mt. Carmel, Edinburg,

recently recognized Walter J. Malone for service rendered as a deacon.

Russell M. Scruggs, 81, of Independence, died Jan. 27. Services were held Jan. 29 at Mt. Zion Church, Independence. Scruggs pastored churches in Mississippi for almost 40 years. He is sur-

vived by his wife of 64 years, Vera Embrey Scruggs; son, Ronnie Scruggs of Independence; sister, Corrine Dancy of Canton, Ohio; brother, Johnie Scruggs of Independence; three grandchildren; four great-grandchildren;



Scruggs

and one great, great, grandchild, all of Independence.

Barton Church, Byhalia, recently held deacon ordination services for Ned Carter and Kevin Nieminen. Pictured (from left) are John McMullen, pastor; Carter; and Nieminen. Don Stanfill, missions director for Marshall Association, and Marvin Cox, missions director for Union Association, brought the messages.



McMullen, Carter, and Nieminen

*Jesus Christ
Requests the Honor
of Your Presence
in Heaven!*

YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you.
(*I have sinned.*)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death.
(*I repent.*)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you.
(*I believe in Jesus.*)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with him.
(*I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.*)

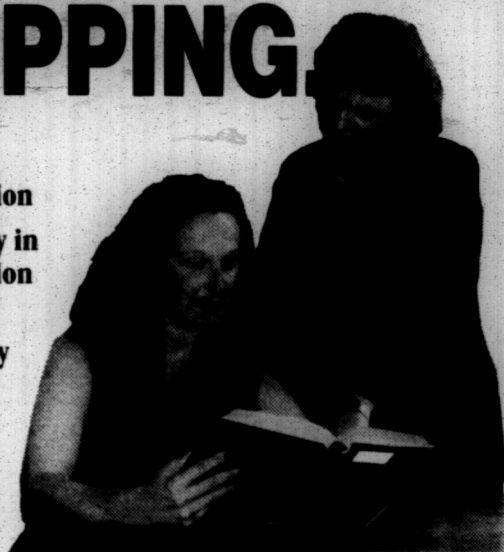
But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name (John 1:12).

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

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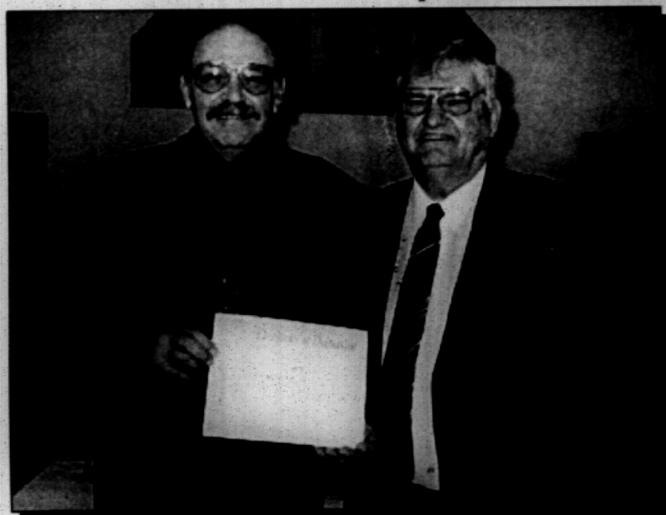
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STAFF CHANGES



Parks Church, Drew, recently called **Jess Chadwick** as pastor. Friendship East Church, Charleston, ordained him in December. He is currently attending seminary extension studies in Nashville, Tenn. Pictured (from left) are J. G. Thomas, pastor of Friendship East Church, and Chadwick.

O d u s Jackson has resigned from the pastorate of Ebenezer Church, Liberty, effective Feb. 3. He is available for supply preaching, revival crusades, and interim pastor. Jackson can be contacted by calling (601) 225-4210.

Union Church, Meridian, recently held a retirement celebration for **John H. Edwards**. His last official day as pastor was Dec. 31, 2001. Edwards was ordained to the ministry at Four Mile Creek Church, Jackson



Edwards

County. He has pastored Pine Crest Mission, Jackson County; Hillcrest Church, Lucedale; Rolling Creek Church, Clarke County; Southside Church, Lucedale; and Union Church for 18 years.

Union Church, Meridian, has called **Greg Massey** as pastor, effective Feb. 10. He previously served as minister of music and education at First Church, Morton. Formerly from Meridian, Massey has also served as a missionary in Argentina.

Calvary Church, Waynesboro, has called **Mark Byrd** as pastor, effective Feb. 10. A native of Forrest County, his previous place of service was Magnolia Church, Laurel. Byrd received his education at The University of Southern Mississippi and New Orleans Seminary.

Chris Johns has been called to East Booneville Church, Prentiss Association, as minister of youth and children, effective Dec. 31. He received his education from the University of Southern Mississippi. His previous place of service was Goodwater Church, Simpson Association. **Jim Holcomb**



Johns is pastor.

Homecoming

Magnolia Church, Laurel: 60th anniversary; March 3; 10:30 a.m.; **Damon Vaughn**, guest speaker, former pastor of Magnolia Church from 1957-1963; **Wayne Thompson**, Magnolia Church, music.

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AFTER 33 YEARS OF MINISTRY AT CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH IN SHREVEPORT, LA

Bro. W.D. "Step" Martin is retiring on March 10, 2002

A special service recognizing Bro. Step's ministry will be held at the Bossier Civic Center in Bossier City, LA.

The service will begin at 10 a.m.

The membership of Calvary Baptist Church invites you to share in the celebration of this ministry.

For more information, please feel free to contact Calvary Baptist Church at (318) 687-4920.



June Cleaver. Barbie. Magazines and media. From the time we were little girls, messages have bombarded us about what the ideal woman should be like. Yet the world's idea of the ideal woman and God's view of the woman of worth and wisdom are two very different things. And that's what Bellevue's Virtuous Woman Conference, April 19-20, is all about. Whether you're a teen or a senior or anywhere in between, join us for a refreshing, uplifting weekend that just may redefine your idea of the ideal woman—at Bellevue's Virtuous Woman Conference.

Virtuous Woman Conference

Bellevue Baptist Church • April 19-20, 2002

Memphis, Tennessee

Friday, April 19, 6:30-9:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 20, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.



Vicki Courtney

Featured guest speaker

Author of Virtuous Reality... Becoming the Ideal Woman and The Virtuous Woman... Shattering the Superwoman Myth

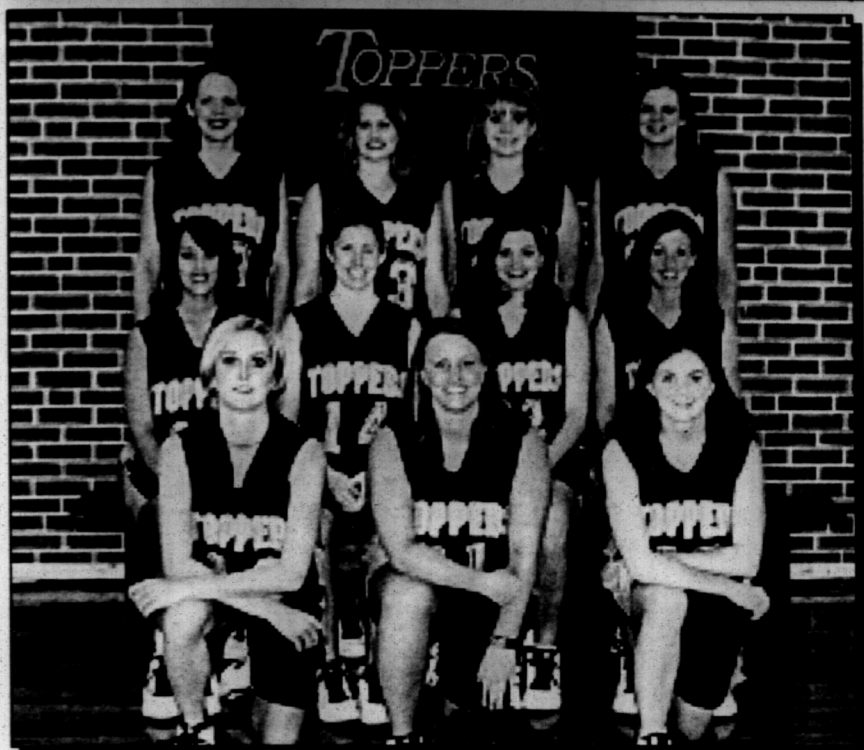
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BMC basketball team

The National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) recognized Blue Mountain College as a Champions of Character Institution. Five core character values: respect, integrity, responsibility, servant leadership, and sportsmanship are emphasized. In order to be recognized, an institution had to take action steps in all five core character value areas and

had to report its accomplished goals. BMC was one of 111 out of 224 institutions recognized as Character Institutions. Members pictured (from left, front row) of the 2001-2002 BMC toppers basketball team are Sue-Ane Dunnam, Mooreville; Carolyn Howell, Southaven; Kim Massengill, Glen; (second row) Andrea Phillips, Anderson, Ala.; Tracy Rice, Arlington, Tenn.; Sheree McDowell, Belmont; Heather Johnson, Hamilton, Ala.; (back row) Jamie Davis, Paris, Tenn.; Abby Childs, Ripley; Cristy Turner, Middleton, Tenn.; and Crystal Kilpatrick, Waynesboro, Tenn.

William Carey College Speech and Debate Team (forensics) placed seventh overall at the 2002 Collegiate Honorary National Tournament held recently in St. Louis, Mo. The Crusader team also placed ninth in debate sweepstakes. Matthew Smith, McComb, finished first in program oral interpretation, second in poetry interpretation, and fifth in prose interpretation. Jessica Pinion, Florence, and Lance Baggett, Monticello, advanced to semifinals in novice debate. Frankie Glennis, Summit, and Chad Hampton, Florence, advanced to quarterfinals in novice debate. Other students contributing to the national ranking include Meagan Odom, Theodore, Ala.; Vanessa Starks, Montgomery, Ala.; and Michael Wilkinson, Pascagoula.

Josh Tannehill, a native of Jackson and senior music major at William Carey College, received the first place award for guitar solo at the National Federation of Music Clubs state conference held recently at Belhaven College. Tannehill, whose music concentration is in guitar performance, beat out other music students from colleges and universities throughout Mississippi to win the \$600 cash prize.



Tannehill

William Carey College's (WCC) Summer Travel and Excavation Program (STEP) 2002 will travel to Turkey for a 15-day tour of biblical sites, May 27-June 10. Under the direction of Daniel Browning, biblical archaeologist and professor of religion at WCC, the program will primarily focus on Paul's missionary journeys including his home city of Tarsus, ministry base in Antioch, the cities of the Seven Churches of Asia in Revelation, the sites of Abraham's Old Testament travels, and Istanbul. STEP combines intensive student oriented study travel in Biblical Lands with participation in the archaeological excavation of a Biblical site. However, this program will conduct a two-week itinerary of touring in Turkey with no archaeological dig. Although class credit may be earned by attending the trip to Turkey, Browning says that the trip is not just for students. More information about the summer program can be obtained by calling (601) 318-6156 or by visiting www.wmcarey.edu/religion/STEP/STEP.html.

An exhibit of prize-winning quilts by members of the Pine Belt Quilters Guild opens Feb. 21 with a reception from 5-6:30 p.m. in the Lucile Parker Gallery, located in Thomas Fine Arts Building at William Carey College in Hattiesburg. The exhibit will remain in the gallery until March 28 and can be viewed during regular gallery hours: 1 to 4 p.m., Mon.-Fri., or by appointment. The gallery will be closed for Spring Break March 9-17. Call (601) 318-6192 for more information.

Pianist Theresa Sanchez will perform Feb. 26 at 7 p.m. at William Carey College in Hattiesburg. A native of Laurel, Sanchez has performed as a soloist throughout the United States, Canada, and Europe. She is a founding member for the Vicksburg International Chamber Music Festival and has been featured on Mississippi Educational Television. A woodwinds, strings, and guitar concert by the John Ingwersen Trio will be presented Feb. 28 at 7 p.m. in the Lucille Parker Gallery. For information on tickets call (601) 318-6183.

Indian believers targeted

LOS ANGELES (BP) — Most Christians understand the threat posed by militant Islam around the world, but few are aware of a strain of Hindu radicalism targeting believers in India. George Ninan, a South Asia director for Campus Crusade for Christ, told ASSIST News Service, "There is a well-rehearsed plan for violence against churches and evangelists" in the sprawling sub-continent inhabited by one-sixth of the world's population.

In 1997, a Jesuit priest from Belgium named Father Thomas was killed by Hindu nationalists disguised as police officers. The same year, another priest was severely beaten and paraded naked through the streets by militants — all within view of the police, according to Freedom House in Washington D.C. Two years later, an Australian missionary and his two sons were burned to death in their van by Hindu extremists. More than 100 incidents of violence have been documented against Christians since 1998, including the rape of four nuns and one nun shot in the face. Many Christians were injured, killed, or left homeless by such attacks.

In addition to religious persecution, Indian society is beset by other deeply rooted social problems. The New York Times reported that one-third of the elected officials in India's most populous state have criminal backgrounds. India's judicial system has a logjam of 30 million unheard cases, and the system is considered off-limits to the poor. The army and police have been accused of torture and arbitrary disappearances, particularly against low-caste members of society. Female convicts are often raped while in custody, according to Freedom House.

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THE MARSHALL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION in Alabama is accepting resumes for a director of missions. Send resumes to: Search Committee, Marshall Baptist Association, 3555 AL Hwy 69 W., Guntersville, AL 35976. Deadline is March 1, 2002.

ILLINOIS BAPTIST EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE is receiving recommendations for the position of Executive Director. All recommendations should be sent in writing to Kevin Kerr, Chairman, 320 Covington Drive, Waterloo, Illinois 62298.

MS POSITIONS AVAILABLE

CHURCH AVERAGING 100 in Sunday School seeks full-time minister of music and youth or bi-vocational minister of music. Please send resume to Calvary Baptist Church, 2878 Old Hwy. 27, Vicksburg, MS 39180; or fax to (601) 636-7574.

ALTA WOODS BAPTIST CHURCH, Jackson, Miss., is now accepting applications for the position of church organist. The position will be available May 12, 2002. Please submit resume to: Music Committee, Alta Woods Baptist Church, 168 Colonial Drive, Jackson, MS 39204. **ASSISTANT DIRECTOR** for weekday ministry program. Approximately 180 children. Please forward resume and salary requirements to: Assistant Director Position, 302 West Jackson Street, Ridgeland, MS 39157.

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FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

Stockpiling to sharing

Luke 12:13-21; 21:1-4

By J. Michael Barnett

Out fishing one day my friend George said to me, "When you give something to someone that person will remember you." He then gave me a rod and reel and said, "Every time you use this you will think of me."

He was exactly right. To this day when I use that particular rod and reel I think about George, our friendship, and the many hours of fellowship we enjoyed fishing.

This week's Bible study deals in particular with two contrary philosophies of life: Greed vs. Giving. In Luke 12:13-21 we discover the condemnation of greed.

In verses 13-15, a man asks Jesus to urge his brother to

divide their inheritance. Perhaps this man was the younger desiring half of his father's prosperity. The law (see Deut. 21:17) was two-thirds to the oldest, one third to the youngest.

Maybe there was a legal dispute over the inheritance. Either way Jesus refused to get involved and used the confrontation as an illustration of the folly of greed. He gives a parable concerning the wealthy landowner whose enjoyed a bumper crop. The parable expresses three mistakes that greedy people make:

First, they emphasize the physical over the spiritual (v. 16-19). The man planted and was blessed. He built bigger barns and appeared to be wise.



Barnett

His greedy folly appears in verse 19. The soul does not eat and drink. In his greed he failed to understand the spiritual truth that there is more to life than material things. He chose to live solely on physical bread, but the Bible says man should not live by bread alone, but by the Word of

God. The greedy person focuses on the physical rather than the spiritual.

Secondly, greedy people consider the temporal to the exclusion of the eternal. The man never considered the possibility of death. He only planned for the temporal. He would enter eternity in less than a day (see verse 20) and had made no plans. Greed is an earthly problem. When our treasures are stored up on earth they are only temporary.

The third error of greedy people is that they confuse material possessions for wealth. The words of Jesus in verse 15 contradict this philosophy: "Take

heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesses." I like what Adrian Rogers says: "Add up everything you have that money cannot buy and death cannot take away and that is how wealthy you are."

Within this parable we notice that greedy people are ungrateful and selfish. The landowner was not grateful for the abundance with which God had blessed him. No worship flowed from his heart unto the giver of all good things. He was also selfish. He stored up and stockpiled his goods. In verses 17-19 the man uses the personal pronoun "my" five times. God himself expresses the final estimation of a greedy person, and that is: "Thou fool."

In Luke 21:1-4 we see the commendation of giving. From a poor widow we learn the characteristics of a giving person.

Giving people give without excuse. The poor widow could not afford to give what she did. Logic dictates that this woman should not give. She should use

her two mites to provide for her needs. Giving people do not heed logic; they follow the Lord.

Giving people give sacrificially. Mark records that others gave out of their abundance, but this woman gave her life (see Mark 12:41-44). Perhaps these two mites were the only things keeping her from starvation. She did not give her life's savings; she gave her life. This is a characteristic that is not seen very often.

Giving people trust God. This woman trusted the Lord to meet her needs. She did not live by greed; she lived by grace. She knew that God in his gracefulness would meet her every need.

This dear lady gave. Jesus remembered her. We remember her. We only speak of her with the highest praise. My friend George was right. When you give something away you will be remembered. Especially when you give in the name of Christ.

Barnett is pastor of First Church, Ocean Springs.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Face transitions with faith

Deuteronomy 31-34

By Carleen McGraw

He was not perfect, but what a faithful servant was God's man Moses! Centuries would pass before Jesus, God's only Son, the perfect One, would walk on earth. Jesus has been found worthy of greater honor than Moses.

From the time he was 80 years old, until now at 120, Moses served the Lord faithfully. Yet it was only through God's grace and his mother's courage that Moses was spared as a baby.

Growing up in the Egyptian palace as the son of Pharaoh's daughter trained him as a diplomat. Tending sheep in the desert mellowed his temper and brought him into direct contact with the Lord, who

called him to a task he did not want to do. On many occasions during Moses' 40 years of service, he felt totally inadequate, but with God's help, he remained faithful.

Because of his disobedience in striking a rock for water instead of speaking to it as the Lord had commanded — and in the process claiming God's glory for himself — the Lord told Moses he would not enter the Promised Land.

Disobedience could not be ignored. Now under Moses' leadership and the Lord's guidance and direction, the Israelites are standing on the edge of the Promised Land the Lord had covenanted with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob to give to their descendants.



McGraw

Moses asked the Lord to "appoint a man over this community to go out and come in before them, one who will lead them out and bring them in, so the Lord's people will not be like sheep without a shepherd."

So the Lord said to Moses, "Take Joshua son of Nun, a man in whom is the Spirit, and lay your hand on him" (Num. 27:17-19). Moses did as the Lord commanded, and the authority and leadership was now on the shoulders of Joshua, who had been Moses' constant aide during the 40 years of wilderness wandering. Moses assured the people they would be in good hands.

He urged them to, "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because . . . the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you" (31:6). To Joshua, his God-appointed successor, he said, "Be strong and

courageous, for you must go with this people into the land the Lord swore to their forefathers to give them . . . The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged" (31:7,8).

The Lord told Moses to bring Joshua with him to the "Tent of Meeting, where I will commission him" (31:14), and there the Lord told them that the people would soon leave him and worship foreign gods, and he would eventually have to destroy them. Even in the face of this prophecy, the Lord encouraged Joshua with these words: "Be strong and courageous for you will bring the Israelites into the land I promised them on oath, and I myself will be with you" (31:23).

In chapter 34, Moses' work is finished. He had answered the Lord's call; he had accomplished what the Lord called him to do. He walked up Mount Nebo with a spring in

his step — "his eyes were not weak nor his strength gone" (v. 7).

He looked out from the mountain top and saw all the land "from Gilead to Dan, all of Naphtali, the territory of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the western sea, the Negev and the whole region from the Valley of Jericho, the city of Palms, as far as Zoar." The Lord said to him, "This is it! This is the land I promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob when I said, I will give it to your descendants" (v. 4).

As Moses stood in awe, seeing the land, thinking of all the blessings, all the possibilities it would afford God's people, thinking back over all the trials and hardships endured with this "stubborn, stiff-necked" people — taking it all in, he must have said, "It was worth it all!" When he had seen his fill, Moses died in Moab and the Lord buried his body.

McGraw is a member of First Church, Louisville.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats,

THE BAPTIST
Record

no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the **who, what, when, where** details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Requests to return photographs must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.



THE VILLAGE VIEW

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Honor Roll of Churches

Each January we evaluate the cash gifts received in the financial office of The Baptist Children's Village during the previous twelve months. In this evaluation it has become customary to list the Mississippi Baptist churches in descending order of their designated cash gifts. This evaluation and analysis is known as the "Honor Roll of Churches." During 2001, 466 local churches gave \$1,000.00 or more to the ministry of The Baptist Children's Village. According to our records, those "top 466 churches" were:

RANK	CHURCH NAME/ CITY	2001 GIFTS			
241	Berea Baptist Church, Mc Cool	\$1,852.30	313	Saucier Missionary Baptist Church, Saucier	\$1,426.00
242	Tuscola Baptist Church, Lena	\$1,842.27	314	Oak Grove Baptist Church, Shubuta	\$1,417.10
243	New Providence Baptist Church, Hazlehurst	\$1,833.27	315	West End Baptist Church, West Point	\$1,414.21
244	Hernando Baptist Church, Hernando	\$1,826.97	316	Corinth Baptist Church, Carthage	\$1,407.00
245	Bethel Baptist Church, Poplarville	\$1,826.19	317	Boulevard Baptist Church, Southaven	\$1,397.00
246	Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Quitman	\$1,820.42	318	East Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, Quitman	\$1,391.50
247	Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church, Dumas	\$1,800.00	319	Lowery Creek Baptist Church, Seminary	\$1,388.00
248	First Baptist Church, Lyman	\$1,794.86	320	First Baptist Church, Baldwin	\$1,375.00
249	Bethel Baptist Church, Etta	\$1,792.99	321	First Baptist Church, Bay St Louis	\$1,373.58
250	Sturgis Baptist Church, Sturgis	\$1,773.52	322	Union Baptist Church, Corinth	\$1,373.55
251	Harrisburg Baptist Church, Tupelo	\$1,769.00	323	Gooden Lake Baptist Church, Belzoni	\$1,369.00
252	Sunrise Baptist Church, Carthage	\$1,744.00	324	Bradford Chapel Baptist Church, Gore Springs	\$1,367.00
253	Longview Heights Baptist Church, Olive Branch	\$1,741.73	325	Center Hill Baptist Church, Ecu	\$1,360.26
254	Good Hope Baptist Church, Richton	\$1,733.48	326	Elon Baptist Church, Macon	\$1,350.00
255	Hathorn Baptist Church, Columbia	\$1,720.01	327	Crape Creek Baptist Church, Stewart	\$1,350.00
256	New Home Baptist Church, Taylorsville	\$1,714.78	328	New Hope Baptist Church, Foxworth	\$1,345.00
257	Gatesville Baptist Church, Crystal Springs	\$1,711.67	329	Soulenovie Baptist Church, Enterprise	\$1,341.52
258	Magee's Creek Baptist Church, Jayess	\$1,710.50	330	First Baptist Church, Delisle	\$1,340.00
259	First Baptist Church, Lizana	\$1,709.85	331	First Baptist Church, Lambert	\$1,337.13
260	First Baptist Church, Rolling Fork	\$1,705.47	332	Grace Baptist Church, Philadelphia	\$1,335.00
261	Interstate Baptist Church, Shaw	\$1,701.04	333	Philadelphia Baptist Church, Gore Springs	\$1,328.57
262	First Baptist Church, Flora	\$1,700.00	334	First Baptist Church, Leland	\$1,325.00
263	First Baptist Church, Wiggins	\$1,700.00	335	Courtland Baptist Church, Courtland	\$1,310.00
264	Macedonia Baptist Church, Brookhaven	\$1,697.00	336	Skene Baptist Church, Skene	\$1,308.12
265	Mount Vernon Baptist Church, Newton	\$1,690.50	337	Friendship Baptist Church, Sturgis	\$1,305.27
266	Dixie Baptist Church, Hattiesburg	\$1,690.00	338	Hope Baptist Church, West Point	\$1,300.00
267	Dublin Baptist Church, Carson	\$1,678.09	339	Union Baptist Church, Nettleton	\$1,300.00
268	Wellman Baptist Church, Bogue Chitto	\$1,673.21	340	First Baptist Church, Steens	\$1,300.00
269	Beulah Baptist Church, Decatur	\$1,664.96	341	Easthaven Baptist Church, Brookhaven	\$1,300.00
270	Meadow Grove Baptist Church, Brandon	\$1,660.31	342	New Prospect Baptist Church, Iuka	\$1,300.00
271	New Bethel Baptist Church, Carrollton	\$1,652.09	343	County Line Baptist Church, Walnut	\$1,300.00
272	Harmony Baptist Church, Pontotoc	\$1,640.00	344	Roxie Baptist Church, Roxie	\$1,300.00
273	Calvary West Point Baptist Church, West Point	\$1,637.30	345	Silver Creek Baptist Church, McComb	\$1,287.69
274	Rocky Point Baptist Church, Carthage	\$1,636.64	346	Union Baptist Church, Picayune	\$1,284.87
275	Ellistown Baptist Church, Blue Springs	\$1,636.06	347	Calvary Baptist Church, Newton	\$1,283.34
276	Lone Oak Baptist Church, Corinth	\$1,622.44	348	Galilee Baptist Church, Gloster	\$1,280.00
277	Harmony Baptist Church, Louisville	\$1,618.05	349	West McComb Baptist Church, McComb	\$1,276.00
278	Bethany Baptist Church, Meridian	\$1,617.11	350	Second Baptist Church, Greenville	\$1,275.00
279	Siloam Baptist Church, Magee	\$1,613.39	351	First Baptist Church, Mathiston	\$1,269.00
280	Liberty Baptist Church, De Kalb	\$1,605.00	352	Silver Springs Baptist Church, Osyka	\$1,268.00
281	Lebanon Baptist Church, Ripley	\$1,601.09	353	First Baptist Church, Lumberton	\$1,266.86
282	Michael Memorial Baptist Church, Gulfport	\$1,600.70	354	Crowder Baptist Church, Crowder	\$1,265.62
283	Mount Vernon Baptist Church, Eupora	\$1,600.00	355	Horseshoe Baptist Church, Tchula	\$1,260.00
284	Bethlehem Baptist Church, Pinola	\$1,592.32	356	Crane Creek Baptist Church, Perkinston	\$1,258.05
285	First Baptist Church, Cleveland	\$1,592.00	357	West Ripley Baptist Church, Ripley	\$1,250.00
286	Mount Zion Baptist Church, Taylorsville	\$1,588.50	358	Grace Memorial Baptist Church, Gulfport	\$1,250.00
287	Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, Gloster	\$1,588.10	359	Crystal Springs Baptist Church, Tylertown	\$1,248.50
288	Mount Horeb Baptist Church, Collins	\$1,583.71	360	First Baptist Church, Runnelstown, Petal	\$1,245.96
289	Hinkle Baptist Church, Rienzi	\$1,579.00	361	Scotland Baptist Church, Winona	\$1,243.86
290	Woodland Baptist Church, Woodland	\$1,569.10	362	Cliff Temple Baptist Church, Natchez	\$1,239.26
291	Pilgrim's Rest Baptist Church, Houlika	\$1,563.23	363	Morgantown Baptist Church, Natchez	\$1,238.60
292	First Baptist Church, Senatobia	\$1,550.00	364	County Line Baptist Church, Union	\$1,237.25
293	Pearson Baptist Church, Pearl	\$1,550.00	365	Wynndale Baptist Church, Terry	\$1,235.00
294	First Baptist Church, Vancleave	\$1,545.26	366	Bethel Baptist Church, Liberty	\$1,235.00
295	Woolmarket Baptist Church, Biloxi	\$1,543.60	367	Ramah Baptist Church, Mc Call Creek	\$1,232.46
296	Slayden Baptist Church, Lamar	\$1,520.00	368	Mount Zion Baptist Church, Mount Olive	\$1,231.27
297	Antioch Baptist Church, Lexington	\$1,515.17	369	Ora Baptist Church, Seminary	\$1,226.06
298	Salem Baptist Church, Raymond	\$1,512.00	370	Oak Grove Baptist Church, Bentonla	\$1,225.00
299	Southway Baptist Church, Brookhaven	\$1,510.63	371	Hollandale Baptist Church, Hollandale	\$1,221.84
300	Friendship Baptist Church, Ecu	\$1,505.05	372	First Baptist Church, Long Beach	\$1,221.19
301	Trinity Baptist Church, Fulton	\$1,505.00	373	Unity Baptist Church, Picayune	\$1,220.00
302	Beacon Street Baptist Church, Philadelphia	\$1,500.00	374	Hepzibah Baptist Church, Vossburg	\$1,211.00
303	Providence Baptist Church, Cleveland	\$1,495.80	375	Furrs Baptist Church, Pontotoc	\$1,210.00
304	Chaparral Baptist Church, Waynesboro	\$1,477.50	376	Handsboro Baptist Church, Gulfport	\$1,203.00
305	First Baptist Church, Calhoun City	\$1,472.00	377	Emmanuel Baptist Church, Greenville	\$1,202.79
306	Central Baptist Church, Mc Neill	\$1,469.74	378	Broadway Baptist Church, Olive Branch	\$1,200.00
307	New Montpelier Baptist Church, Woodland	\$1,467.95	379	Bethlehem Baptist Church, Benton	\$1,200.00
308	First Baptist Church, Belmont	\$1,464.99	380	Cumberland Baptist Church, Maben	\$1,200.00
309	Georgetown Baptist Church, Georgetown	\$1,463.93	381	Grace Memorial Baptist Church, Tupelo	\$1,200.00
310	Causeyville Baptist Church, Meridian	\$1,453.16	382	Leflore Baptist Church, Holcomb	\$1,200.00
311	Schlatter Baptist Church, Schlatter	\$1,450.00	383	First Baptist Church, Fulton	\$1,200.00
312	Gallman Baptist Church, Gallman	\$1,443.07	384	Mount Zion Baptist Church, Florence	\$1,200.00
			385	Friendship Baptist Church, Brookhaven	\$1,200.00

386	New Salem Baptist Church, Iuka	\$1,200.00
387	Sallis Baptist Church, Sallis	\$1,200.00
388	Braxton Baptist Church, Braxton	\$1,200.00
389	Salem Baptist Church, Potts Camp	\$1,200.00
390	Oak Grove Baptist Church, Mount Olive	\$1,200.00
391	Hillcrest Baptist Church, New Albany	\$1,200.00
392	Bogue Chitto Baptist Church, Tylertown	\$1,200.00
393	Port Gibson Baptist Church, Port Gibson	\$1,200.00
394	Oloh First Baptist Church, Sumrall	\$1,200.00
395	Ellison Ridge Baptist Church, Louisville	\$1,200.00
396	First Baptist Church, Anguilla	\$1,200.00
397	Camp Creek Baptist Church, Guntown	\$1,196.69
398	West Shady Grove Baptist Church, Waynesboro	\$1,188.41
399	Gum Grove Baptist Church, Brookhaven	\$1,182.55
400	Hebron Baptist Church, Bentonla	\$1,182.00
401	First Baptist Church, Waynesboro	\$1,180.00
402	Remus Baptist Church, Carthage	\$1,175.00
403	Pinckney Baptist Church, Union	\$1,175.00
404	West Heights Baptist Church, Pontotoc	\$1,171.00
405	Pittsboro Baptist Church, Pittsboro	\$1,164.34
406	Enterprise Baptist Church, Enterprise	\$1,161.15
407	Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Carthage	\$1,154.25
408	Griffith Memorial Baptist Church, Jackson	\$1,150.00
409	Airport Baptist Church, Grenada	\$1,147.91
410	Neshoba Baptist Church, Union	\$1,145.94
411	First Baptist Church, Brooklyn	\$1,143.59
412	Beulah Baptist Church, Myrtle	\$1,140.00
413	Centerville Baptist Church, Centerville	\$1,135.00
414	Mount Vernon Baptist Church, Meridian	\$1,129.38
415	Fellowship Baptist Church, Ellisville	\$1,127.36
416	First Baptist Church, Poplarville	\$1,125.66
417	Faithview Baptist Church, Saucier	\$1,125.60
418	First Baptist Church, Polkville	\$1,125.00
419	Locust Hill Baptist Church, Blue Springs	\$1,125.00
420	Hebron Baptist Church, Meridian	\$1,123.66
421	Good Hope Baptist Church, Camden	\$1,122.00
422	First Baptist Church, Meridian	\$1,120.02
423	Straight Bayou Baptist Church, Anguilla	\$1,116.50
424	Calvary Baptist Church, Hattiesburg	\$1,113.35
425	Oldham Baptist Church, Burnsville	\$1,106.00
426	Shady Grove Baptist Church, Heidelberg	\$1,104.43
427	Salem Baptist Church, Raleigh	\$1,103.55
428	Oak Hill Baptist Church, Booneville	\$1,100.00
429	Bethany Baptist Church, Potts Camp	\$1,100.00
430	Immanuel Baptist Church, Hattiesburg	\$1,100.00
431	Evergreen Baptist Church, Louisville	\$1,100.00
432	Ebenezer Baptist Church, Bassfield	\$1,096.11
433	Banner Baptist Church, Bruce	\$1,095.00
434	New Zion Baptist Church, Crystal Springs	\$1,092.82
435	Northside Baptist Church, Lucedale	\$1,083.90
436	Faith Baptist Church, Jackson	\$1,080.00
437	Ecu Baptist Church, Ecu	\$1,080.00
438	Briarwood Drive Baptist Church, Jackson	\$1,078.00
439	Montrose Baptist Church, Louin	\$1,068.33
440	Highland Baptist Church, Senatobia	\$1,065.50
441	Oakhurst Baptist Church, Clarksdale	\$1,065.00
442	Ridgecrest Baptist Church, Madison	\$1,060.40
443	Zion Hill Baptist Church, Liberty	\$1,055.13
444	Tishomingo Baptist Church, Tishomingo	\$1,055.01
445	New County Line Church, Carthage	\$1,050.00
446	Davis Road Baptist Church, Terry	\$1,049.87
447	Shady Grove Baptist Church, New Albany	\$1,049.33
448	Melrose Baptist Church, Bentonla	\$1,048.00
449	County Line Baptist Church, Carthage	\$1,046.00
450	Calvary Baptist Church, Belmont	\$1,033.81
451	Mount Olive Baptist Church, Smithdale	\$1,027.00
452	Zion Hill Baptist Church, Blue Springs	\$1,026.92
453	Crystal Ridge Baptist Church, Louisville	\$1,022.62
454	Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, Woodland	\$1,020.00
455	Arlington Baptist Church, Bogue Chitto	\$1,018.96
456	Northrup Chapel, Quitman	\$1,016.64
457	First Baptist Church, Collins	\$1,002.61
458	Jones Chapel Baptist Church, Nettleton	\$1,000.00
459	Riverside Baptist Church, Pascagoula	\$1,000.00
460	Mount Zion Baptist Church, Tishomingo	\$1,000.00
461	Rome Baptist Church, Rome	\$1,000.00
462	Colonial Heights Baptist Church, Jackson	\$1,000.00
463	First Baptist Church, Collinsville	\$1,000.00
464	Golden Central Baptist Church, Golden	\$1,000.00
465	Calvary Baptist Church, Corinth	\$1,000.00
466	Enon Baptist Church, Jayess	\$1,000.00

The Baptist Children's Village is pleased to announce that a new site of

CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S JOB CORPS

will be located on the
India Nunnery Campus in Jackson.
An open house is planned for
Friday, March 1, 2002 at 10 a.m.
at the Merrill Administration Building
at 805 Flag Chapel Drive,
Jackson, Mississippi.

For those interested in attending
please contact Chrystelle Thames at
(601) 922-2242.



Christian Women's Job Corps®
A Ministry of WMU

Michigan law to promote motto use

WASHINGTON (BP) — A recently-passed Michigan law will "strongly encourage" state and local government offices to display the U.S. motto, "In God We Trust," CNSNews.com reported.

The new law, which was signed by Republican Gov. John Engler, "strongly encourages each state agency and unit of local government to exercise their constitutional ability to place the national motto 'In God We Trust' in or on public buildings or land owned or occupied by that state agency or unit of local government."

The American Family Association (AFA) of Michigan announced last month in anticipation of the signing of the bill that it plans to place the motto in every public school classroom in the state, and offered the donation of a framed copy of the motto for each classroom in the Detroit suburbs of Troy and Rochester.

Carrie Moss, executive director of the Michigan chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), said she was disappointed by the passage of the new Michigan law. "We thought that it was just one more attempt by the conservative right in this state to bring religion into the schools," Moss said.

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx
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BPS ACFBKRYCZBW
EVOKPY DU VDC VI CRG
ZBCGF, RG ABZ CRG RGB-
HGPA VUGPGS, BPS CRG
AUKFKC NKMGB SVHG
SGAEGPSKPY DUVPRKO.

OBFBM VPG:CGP

Clue: K = I

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Matthew One: Twenty-Three.

Beaty rebuilding life after husband's death

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — It's been several months since her husband died of cancer, and missionary Christy Beaty is rebuilding her life. With four young children, including a seven-month-old baby, coping with the grief of losing her best friend and husband of 12 years isn't easy.

"I've been trying to figure out life," she said. "I'm cultivating friendships, which I've never had to do. I got married when I was 19, so it's been a long time since I've had to rely on someone other than Charles."

When doctors told Charles Beaty that his lung cancer was beyond treatment, he and Christy faced the difficult decision of whether to spend his remaining time with family or to return to their mission field in northern Africa for one last good-bye.

They chose to spend part of his final months in northern Africa, visiting friends and encouraging them to realize no one has time to waste in committing their lives to Christ. He died Oct. 2, at the age of 34.

Christy recently visited the International Mission Board (IMB) Missionary Learning Center in Rockville, Va., to meet with women who are training to serve as missionaries in Muslim cultures. Through laughter and tears, she answered their questions about Muslim culture, missionary life, and her spiritual journey since Charles' death.

Her family, Christy said, is playing a key role in beginning to put her life back together. She said she relies on her family for support in raising her children, all of whom are under the age of 10. Her parents live 10 minutes away from Christy's home in Kearney, Mo. Charles' family lives less than an hour away.

"Family helps. When you are at your weakest point, there is nothing like family," she said.

Since Charles' death, Christy said she has experienced several "weak points."

"For most of December I was alone, but it wasn't a typical feeling of loneliness," she said. "I had a pit in my stomach — and it hurt. When I would put the kids to bed and it would be the time that I used to talk to Charles — it hurt, but I am working through the grief."

For Christmas, Christy invited her parents, in-laws, and her children to plant a tree in Charles' memory.

Afterward they shared memories about him and his life. To celebrate Charles' birthday, Jan. 22, Beaty took her children

to place roses on his grave. They then sang some of his favorite songs and once again shared their favorite memories of him.

Their infant daughter is another reminder of Charles' life. She was born shortly before Charles died. Her name is Abigail — which means "a father's joy."

Christy is slowly putting her life back together and making plans for the future. She sings in her church choir, plays hand bells, and shares her testimony with churches.



SHARING MEMORIES — Christy Beaty (right) embraces a sister missionary as they reminisce about the impact her late husband, Charles, had on missions. Since Charles died on Oct. 2 from cancer, Christy has been coping with the grief of losing her best friend and husband of 12 years. She is rebuilding her life and pursuing her passion for taking the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ to multitudes who have never heard. (BP photo by Guy Lyons)

Missions still plays a vital role in her life. She hasn't by any means abandoned her commitment to seeing the good news of God's love taken to those who have never heard — and she's praying her example will stir that same passion in others.

"My story speaks for itself," she said, "but I don't want people to just walk away and say, 'Oh, that was a good story,' or 'Oh, that poor woman.'"

"I want them to walk away and say, 'I want to go serve God!'"

Special Forces head: mom 'true prayer warrior'

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (BP) — William G. Boykin is not just big and strong, but to hear him speak, he is a man with a big, strong faith in God.

Boykin, commanding general of the U.S. Army's John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School in Fort Bragg, N.C., heads Special Forces, including Delta Force. That unit of soldiers goes into situations that most civilians can't even imagine — and they go in as warriors.

"We don't head into situations to keep the peace. We go in to win. I'm a warrior, not a peacekeeper," he said. "Delta Force goes in, strikes quick, and gets out. Often it is a hostage situation."

Boykin spoke to a full sanctuary, which included participants of the National FAITH Institute meeting in Daytona Beach, Fla., Jan. 28-31, as well as church members and others from the Daytona Beach community.

Boykin said his Christian faith has sustained him and guided him during his military career.

"My mother raised me as a Christian. She is a true prayer warrior," he said. "Whenever I have a big decision to make, I call her and get her to pray."

Thirteen years ago when he was named to lead the Special Forces group, Boykin said, "I knew this would be a tremen-

dous challenge, so you know what I immediately did — I called my mother."

Boykin was one of the original officers in Delta Force. This group of soldiers has gone into war zones in Iran, Grenada, Panama, Somalia, and other places of conflict. The events of

their mission in Somalia have been dramatized in the motion picture, *Black Hawk Down*.

Boykin does not endorse the movie. "I'm not saying see it or don't see it. That's your decision," he said.

Before every mission, Boykin said he prays with his



FAITHFUL GENERAL — Bobby Welch (left), pastor of First Church, Daytona Beach, Fla., introduces William G. Boykin, commanding general of the U.S. Army's John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School, to participants of the National FAITH Institute held in Daytona Beach Jan. 28-31. (BP photo)

men. "I always pray for God's blessing on these warriors, for his protective hand around them. Then we sing 'God Bless America.' God has been faithful and has held us in his hands."

Boykin told the FAITH participants that the way they are trained is like the concept of Special Forces training — one person trains 100, who in turn can train 10,000.

"It's force multiplier training. With you, with one prayer, you can call down 10,000 people," he said. "With us, with one A-team and a group of 5,000 untrained Northern Alliance warriors with heart, we can defeat the Taliban."

Of the current war on terrorism, Boykin said, "We have seen a godly man in the White House declare war on terrorism. We need warriors to fight and win this battle. I'm not just talking about our men and women in uniform. I'm talking about all of you in the sanctuary."

"Bin Laden is not the enemy. No mortal is the enemy. It's the enemy you can't see. It's a war against the forces of darkness. The battle won't be won with guns. It will be won on our knees."

He said, "Don't let go of this country. Stay on your knees and don't ever give up."